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Imagery analysis report

**16th Army, Shenyang Military
Region, China**

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16TH ARMY, SHENYANG MILITARY REGION, CHINA

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ABSTRACT

1. [] This report discusses the status of the 16th Army in the Shenyang Military Region, China, as of []. It describes significant changes at the facilities and unit order-of-battle for the period May 1977 through February 1981. The functions and locations of these units were derived from KEYHOLE imagery. []

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2. (S/D) The overall unit structure of this army appears to be a combination of the old and new table of organization and equipment. A partial force upgrading occurred during the reporting period, primarily in the artillery units, with the introduction of rocket launchers and the replacement of a mortar battalion with a howitzer battalion. The anti-aircraft, engineering, and infantry units appeared to be unchanged during the period of this report.

3. [] Moderate construction has occurred at the army-level facilities and within the 46th and 47th Infantry Division facilities. The most significant was the razing, except for the motor pool, and reconstruction of facilities for the 46th Infantry Division probable 251st Tank Regiment at Kaiyuan Army Barracks AL-1.

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4. (S/D) The level of training activity during the reporting period appeared moderate and occurred both in field exercises and within garrisons.

5. (U) This report contains two maps, three annotated photographs, one chart, and one table.

INTRODUCTION

6. [] The 16th Army (Figure 1) is one of six main force armies in the Shenyang Military Region (MR). It has the same general organizational structure as ground forces throughout China: subordinate to the 16th Army Headquarters are three infantry divisions and various army-level support units. The 16th Army comprises the 16th Army Headquarters and its support units: the 46th, the 47th, and the 48th Infantry Divisions. The numbered unit designators used in this report were acquired from referenced document number 1.

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**FIGURE 1. 16TH ARMY, SHENYANG MILITARY REGION, CHINA**

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7. [] The 16th Army Headquarters and the 46th Infantry Division are collocated at Changchun in south-central Shenyang MR within Kirin Province. The 47th and the 48th Infantry Divisions are located at Liaoyuan and Tonghua, 54 and 130 nautical miles (nm) to the south, respectively. The 16th Army is oriented north/south and is situated along a major rail line that enters North Korea, 43 nm south of Tonghua (Figure 2).

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8. [] The 16th Army was formed in late 1948 from the 2nd Column of the Central China People's Liberation Army. The army then took part in operations against the Nationalist Chinese at Anqing in Nanjing MR. In 1950, the army moved to Kunming MR and remained there until early 1951, when it moved to Wuhan MR for training. Several months later, the army moved to Liaoning Province in Shenyang MR, where it trained and was re-equipped. In early 1953, the 16th Army entered Korea. During early to mid-summer 1953, it replaced the 24th Army in the Pyongyang area and took part in final operations prior to the armistice of July 1953.²

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9. [] In late 1954, the 16th Army's divisions each gained an organic armored regiment, making the 16th Army the first Chinese army to contain organic armored regiments in each division.²

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10. [] The 16th Army Headquarters has probably been located at Changchun since 1958, when it reportedly withdrew from Korea, but the army headquarters has been reported there only since August 1961.²

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11. (S/D) References in this report to physical changes in the installations are based on observations since publication of the latest National Basic Reference Graphic (NBRG).³

BASIC DESCRIPTION

Army Headquarters and Army-Level Support Units

12. [] The army headquarters and the army-level support units, located in and around the city of Changchun, consist of the headquarters unit, the probable 119th Artillery Regiment, an antiaircraft artillery (AAA) regiment, and an engineering battalion.⁴

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13. (S/D) The army headquarters unit at Changchun Headquarters Army and Barracks AL-7 has remained relatively unchanged during this reporting period. However, the order-of-battle (OB) fluctuated from a low of zero to a high of 12 probable 122mm howitzers and 102 vehicles on []

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14. [] The probable 119th Artillery Regiment housed at Datun Army Barracks AL-1 has remained unchanged. The OB remained relatively stable and is sufficient to equip an army-level artillery regiment. The multiple-rocket-launcher (MRL) battalion associated with this regiment is believed to be located at Changchun Army Barracks AL-11, where one barracks and three vehicle storage sheds capable of housing 47 vehicles have been added. No MRLs have been observed here since April 1979 when six were present.

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15. (S/D) Elements of the army-level AAA regiment are probably housed at two closely located facilities, Changchun Army Barracks South AL-12 and Changchun Army Barracks West AL-13. The first contains the 57mm antiaircraft (AA) guns along with the fire-control radars, and the latter contains the 37mm AA guns. Both facilities have remained unchanged during the period.

16. (S/D) The engineering battalion housed at Changchun Army Barracks Southeast AL-14 (Figure 3) is undergoing moderate change. New construction consists of additions to four vehicle storage buildings, which will triple their capacity when completed. No bridging equipment has been observed since March 1978, when 18 TPP heavy ponton bridge sections and 11 KMM truck-mounted treadway bridge sections were present.

46th Infantry Division

17. [] The 46th Infantry Division consists of the division headquarters; division support units; the 136th, the 137th, and the 138th Infantry Regiments; and the probable 251st Tank Regiment.

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18. [] The headquarters of the 46th Infantry Division and its 136th and 138th Infantry Regiments are collocated at Changchun Headquarters Infantry Division and Barracks AL-3. This facility has remained unchanged during the reporting period.

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19. [] The 137th Infantry Regiment is housed at Changchun Army Barracks West AL-4, which has undergone significant new construction. Sixteen probable barracks have been constructed in the northeast corner of the facility. The new facilities appear to support the 326th Artillery Regiment of this division. The nine 160mm mortars present are believed to be subordinate to the artillery regiment.

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20. (S/D) The divisional AAA battalion is housed at Changchun Army Barracks and Training Area AL-10. A large control building has been constructed on the firing range. Normal OB consists of eighteen 37mm AA guns and nine ZPU-2 antiaircraft heavy machine guns (AAHMG).

21. [] Elements of the 326th Artillery Regiment are probably housed at two closely located facilities, Changchun Army Barracks AL-6 and Changchun Army Barracks North-Northeast AL-15. The first contains 18 field artillery (FA) pieces and the latter contains twelve 122mm howitzers which have a greater fire-power capability than the mortar battalion previously located here. Both facilities have remained unchanged during the reporting period.

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FIGURE 2. LOCATION OF 16TH ARMY UNITS

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22. [] The divisional engineering battalion is collocated with elements of the 326th Artillery Regiment at Changchun Army Barracks AL-6. Engineering OB consists of 18 TPP ponton bridge sections and various pieces of engineering equipment. 25X1

23. [] The probable 251st Tank Regiment (Figure 4) is housed at Kaiyuan Army Barracks AL-1. Significant construction, which had begun by August 1977 and was completed in March 1979, occurred at this installation. Two buildings were razed, and a small-arms firing range and the following 18 new buildings were constructed: four barracks (two were added to existing barracks doubling their length), two multistory administration buildings/barracks (one E-shaped), one maintenance shop, one maintenance shop/vehicle storage building, eight vehicle storage buildings with a capacity for 144 vehicles, one support building, and one heating plant. Since construction of the vehicle storage buildings, only a low count of tanks has been observed. Current OB consists of four probable tanks, six 37mm AA guns, and seven cargo trucks. The highest tank count occurred in March 1978, when 71 tanks were present. Communications intelligence indicates this unit may be subordinate to the 5th Armored Division (Independent).⁵ 25X1

47th Infantry Division

24. [] The 47th Infantry Division consists of the division headquarters, division support units, and the 139th, the 140th, and the 141st Infantry Regiments. 25X1

25. [] The headquarters of the 47th Infantry Division is housed at Liaoyuan Headquarters Infantry Division and Barracks East AL-1. In addition to the headquarters, the installation houses the divisional AAA battalion. The facility has remained unchanged; however, the OB has fluctuated from a low of 20 cargo trucks to a high of eighteen 37mm AA guns, nine ZPU-2 AAHMG, and 80 cargo trucks. 25X1

26. [] The 139th Infantry Regiment is housed at Liaoyuan Army Barracks South AL-3. A new training facility, immediately north of the firing range in area A2, had been completed by July 1978. The new facility consists of mock up vehicles and infantry trenches. The OB within the facility has usually consisted of several trucks and two dummy tanks; however, in March 1979, nine probable FA pieces were observed. 25X1

27. [] The 140th Infantry Regiment is housed at Dongfeng Army Barracks North AL-1. The facility has remained unchanged and the OB observed here usually consisted of several cargo trucks. 25X1

28. [] The 141st Infantry Regiment was erroneously reported in the NBRG as being housed at Hailong Army Barracks West AL-1. This facility is actually part of the 4th Armored Division (Independent). The current location of the 141st is not known. 25X1

29. [] The 327th Artillery Regiment Headquarters, a howitzer battalion, a gun battalion, a mortar battalion, and the divisional engineering battalion are housed at Weijin Army Barracks South AL-1. A new area, designated area A6, had been constructed by March 1979 (Figure 5). Area A6 houses a howitzer battalion and consists of four barracks, one messhall, and three probable vehicle storage buildings. The OB for the entire facility has fluctuated from a low of four FA pieces and 13 trucks to a high of 26 FA pieces, 11 probable 160mm mortars, 15 ponton bridge sections, two power boats, one truck-mounted crane, and 60 trucks. 25X1

30. [] The probable 252nd Tank Regiment was reported in the NBRG as being housed at Liaoyuan Army Barracks Northeast AL-2. Five new buildings had been constructed in Area A1 when it was last seen in September 1980. Because of the lack of armor, this facility is no longer believed to house the tank regiment, although a reconnaissance company of 11 probable APC was observed in September 1979. This was the first sighting of armor at this facility since October 1976, when 46 tanks and two assault guns were observed. This facility now houses possible elements of the 327th Artillery Regiment. The OB observed here during most of 1979 included one 107mm MRL battalion, one 122mm howitzer battalion, and 45 trucks. The OB observed here combined with that observed at the 327th Artillery Regiment would give the 327th its full complement of organic OB. 25X1

48th Infantry Division

31. [] The 48th Infantry Division consists of the division headquarters, division support units, and the 142nd, the 143rd, and the 144th Infantry Regiments. No engineering unit has been associated with this division. 25X1

32. [] The headquarters of the 48th Infantry Division and the 142nd Infantry Regiment are housed at Tonghua Headquarters Infantry Division and Army Barracks AL-2. This facility has remained unchanged with the OB consisting of approximately 40 cargo trucks. 25X1

33. [] The 143rd Infantry Regiment is housed at Tonghua Army Barracks Northeast AL-4. This facility has remained unchanged; the OB normally consisted of nine probable 107mm MRLs and 25 cargo trucks. 25X1

34. [] The 144th Infantry Regiment is housed at Liuhe Army Barracks East AL-2. The facility has remained unchanged with the OB consisting of several cargo trucks. 25X1

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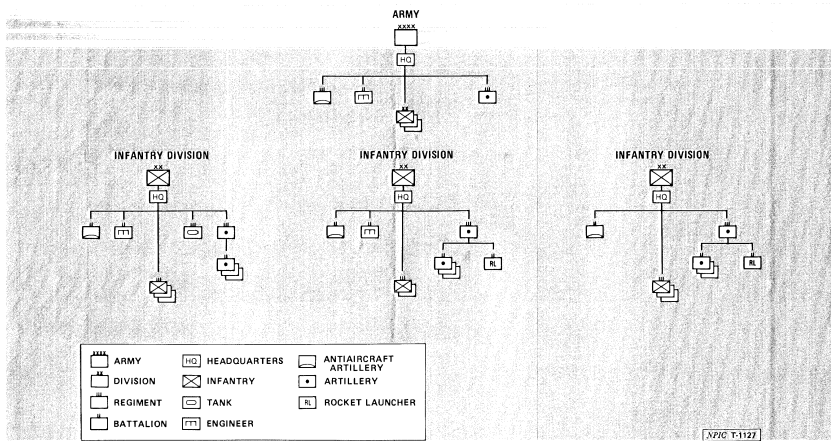


CHART 1. 16TH ARMY UNITS CONFIRMED FROM IMAGERY ANALYSIS

35. [] The 328th Artillery Regiment, the probable 253rd Tank Regiment, and the divisional AAA battalion are all housed at Tonghua Army Barracks Northeast AL-5. This facility has remained unchanged; however, its function may have partially changed. No armor or track activity has been observed since January 1976, indicating that the tank regiment is no longer present. Current OB includes 17 probable 85mm field guns, twenty-three 122mm howitzers, 11 possible mortars, seventeen 37mm AA guns, nine ZPU-4 AAHMG, 100 cargo trucks, and one bus. If the tank regiment has relocated, its new location is unknown.

IMAGERY ANALYST'S COMMENTS

36. [] During the nearly four-year period covered by this report, most of the units in the 16th Army were imaged an average of once or twice a year. Because of the presence of vehicle/equipment storage buildings and a lack of imagery during most of the seasonal training exercises, it has not been possible to determine the full extent of equipment upgrading in this army.

37. [] Because of the 16th Army's position as one of the three main force units on the northern defensive line of Shenyang MR, it is believed that the 16th Army and its subordinate elements will continue a gradual upgrading of equipment over the next few years.

38. [] Analysis of the level of activity and the construction and equipment seen at installations within the 16th Army suggests that the army may be in a moderate to high state of readiness. This, in turn, would mean that the mobilization time for the 16th Army would be fast, thus increasing the overall effectiveness of military operations within the region.

REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(TSR) All applicable KEYHOLE imagery acquired from May 1977 through February 1981 was used in the preparation of this report.

MAPS OR CHARTS

DMA, Operational Navigation Chart, Series ONC, Sheet F-9, 4th ed, rev Oct 79, scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)
US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheets 0284-14, 0290-2, -6, -7, -12, and -16; scale 1:200,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

DOCUMENTS

- CIA/OSR [] CPLA Unit Assessments, 30 Apr 79 (TOP SECRET [])
- NSA 3,000/34905-74 (CCM), The Chinese People's Liberation Army: Ground Forces, 20 Dec 74 (TOP SECRET [])
- DIA, NDA-07/5204/77-NDA-07/5228/77, National Basic Reference Graphics (NBRG), 19 May 77 (SECRET [])
- NPIC, [] PIR-043/75, 16th Army Headquarters, Shenyang Military Region, China, Nov 75 (TOP SECRET [])
- CIA/OIA, [] JS 80-100511, Unit Analysis of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Armored Divisions, Shenyang Military Region, China (S), 28 Mar 80 (TOP SECRET [])

*Extracted information is classified TOP SECRET []
(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, []

(S) This report has been coordinated with members of the Shenyang subgroup of the interagency China Ground Forces Working Group.

Table 1.
16th Army Units as Derived From All-Source Information

Unit	Installation	Coordinates	Be No	Remarks
16th Army Headquarters and Support Units				
Army Hq	Changchun Hq Army & Bks AL-7	43-53-54N 125-18-19E		Signal & chem defense have not been identified.
Auxiliary	Datan Army Bks AL-1	43-46-55N 125-09-08E		Prob 119th, OB: 152mm, 122mm, & 85mm guns and MRL bn
Regt	Changchun Army Bks AL-11	43-49-32N 125-16-09E		
AAA Regt	Changchun Army Bks W AL-13	43-52-48N 125-14-50E		
	Changchun Army Bks S AL-12	43-49-20N 125-17-30E		No engr equipment seen since Mar '78, however, storage bldgs sufficient to house the equipment are present
Engr Bn	Changchun Army Bks SE AL-14	43-51-30N 125-20-30E		
46th Infantry Division				
46th Inf Div	Changchun Hq Inf Div & Bks AL-3	43-50-55N 125-16-05E		
136th Inf	Same			
Regt	Same			
138th Inf	Same			
Regt	Changchun Army Bks W AL-4	43-53-50N 125-14-57E		16 new probable barracks added during '78-'79 time period
137th Inf	Changchun Army Bks & Tng Area AL-10	43-52-32N 125-13-40E		
AAA Bn	Changchun Army Bks AL-6	43-53-38N 125-18-20E		
326th Army	Changchun Army Bks NNE AL-15	43-55-40N 125-18-50E		
Regt	Changchun Army Bks AL-6	43-53-38N 125-18-20E		18 new bldgs constructed by Mar '79, comment indicates the regt may now be subordinate to the 5th Armored Div
Engr Bn	Changchun Army Bks AL-6	42-51-47N 124-02-59E		
Tank Regt	Kaiyuan Army Bks AL-1			
Prob 251st				
47th Infantry Division				
47th Inf Div	Liaoyuan Hq Inf Div & Bks E AL-1	42-54-03N 125-09-32E		
AAA Bn	Same			
139th Inf	Liaoyuan Army Bks South AL-3	42-51-29N 125-08-02E		A new tng facility had been completed by Jul '78
Regt	Dongfang Army Bks N AL-1	42-41-35N 125-31-55E		
140th Inf	Same			The current location of the 141st Inf Regt is unknown. A new barracks area had been constructed by Mar '79
Regt	Same			
327th Army	Weijin Army Bks S AL-1	42-45-12N 125-15-05E		
Engr Bn	Same			
Tank Regt	Liaoyuan Army Bks NE AL-2	42-50-25N 125-12-40E		No tanks have been seen since Oct '76
Prob 252nd				
48th Infantry Division				
48th Inf Div	Tonghua Hq Inf Div & Bks AL-2	41-42-46N 125-58-56E		
142nd Inf	Same			
Regt	Tonghua Army Bks NE AL-4	41-44-15N 125-57-16E		
143rd Inf	Liube Army Bks E AL-2	42-16-08N 125-58-46E		
Regt	Tonghua Army Bks NE AL-5	41-45-42N 125-51-51E		
328th Army	Same			
AAA Bn	Same			
Tank Regt	Same			Storage for a tank regt is sufficient, however, no tanks or track activity have been seen since Jul '76
Prob 253rd				

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